

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER
U. S. WEATHER BUREAU
Sept. 14, 1916—Last twenty-
four hours: rainfall, 0.1; tem-
perature, Min. 71; Max. 84;
Weather, pt. cloudy.

Hawaiian Gazette

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SEA 28 1916

LATEST CABLED SUGAR QUOTATIONS		
50° Centrifugal N. Y.	Cents	Dollars
Price, Hawaiian basis	5.92	\$110.40
Last previous quota- tion.....	5.33	\$106.60

VOL. IX, NO. 77 HONOLULU, HAWAII TERRITORY, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 1916. —SEMI-WEEKLY. WHOLE NUMBER 4548

COMBLES IN PERIL FROM NIPPERS OF ALLIED FOES

Great Steel Pinchers of French and British Armies Swiftly Closing On Picardy Town Germans Have Turned To Fortress

GENERAL FOCH'S TROOPS CAPTURE LE PRIEX FARM

Beat Back Attacks Launched By Crown Prince of Bavaria In Effort To Regain Highway Between Peronne and Bethune

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
PARIS, September 15.—Comblès, the little French city which the Germans have turned into a veritable fortress with machine guns and big guns, is now between the jaws of the British and French nippers, and is flanked on the east and west by the armies of the Allies which are closing in tighter and tighter.
Yesterday the British drove forward slightly in the sector to the north of Ginehy, bringing their line more nearly north and south and increasing the British menace to Comblès.
While the men under General Haig were making that drive the French under the command of General Foch were assaulting the farm of Le Priex, which lies on the southeast of the fortress, and about a mile distant.
The French have been making steady gains in this vicinity for several days and yesterday they launched an attack which carried the farm, with the outbuildings by storm. The Germans had turned the place into a small fort, with trench mortars, machine guns and vast stores of food and munitions. In spite of this they were not able to check the French assault, and abandoned the position after some loss to hand fighting.
This not only brings the ends of the pinchers that are nipping Comblès closer together, but gives the French advantage of ground in other ways, the farm standing on a slight elevation that commands the country around about for some distance. Incidentally it also broadens the French control of the important Peronne-Bapaume-Bethune road, cut by the French when they took Bouchavesnes several days ago.
The importance of this road to the Germans in the Roye salient, to the south, can be gathered from the desperate efforts they made yesterday to recapture the positions around Bouchavesnes. Vainly they battered all day yesterday against the newly won French positions. Again and again they launched attacks against the nose of the salient the French have driven into their flanks there, only to be thrown back by the French artillery fire and infantry.
Talk of Retirement
For some days back there has been talk of a general German retirement from the Roye sector, which lie to the south of Chaulnes, and this has been revived since the fall of Bouchavesnes into French hands, for, although the Roye salient is not dependent upon the Peronne-Bethune road for supplies, it was one of the main transport routes from the south to the north, and one upon which the Germans have been relying for months. The problem of supplying the southern salient becomes vastly more difficult and uncertain with that main highway in the hands of the French.
South of the Somme there was the customary artillery fire during the day, save in the region south of Belloy en Santerre, where the French advanced slightly after a bombing attack which succeeded.
Verdun Attacks Repulsed
In the fields north of Verdun there was a resumption of the fighting in the vicinity of Fleury, where the Germans have been again attempting to drive the French out of the positions General Petain has recaptured from the Crown Prince. Yesterday the official accounts told of a number of German attacks in that sector, which were repulsed with heavy loss.
The Rumanian drive into the heart of Transylvania has been checked by the Austrian armies, according to official despatches from Vienna last night. For some time there has been talk of a shortage of transport for the Russian armies operating in Transylvania, as well as a general stiffening of the Austrian defensive, and unofficial reports have revived this talk.
Berlin officially declared that the Germans and Bulgars operating in the

MORE NEW YORK WORKERS RESTIVE

Thousands of Unionists Threaten To Strike Unless Railroad Trouble Is Settled

Strikers' Oil Trucks and Cars Crash When They Line Down Incline

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
NEW YORK, September 15.—With the street car strike threatening to include thousands more of union workers in this city, the situation last night was blacker than it has been since the meeting of the Interborough employees, on September 6, when they voted to strike.
Ten thousand persons attended a mass meeting in the upper East Side last night and voted to call for a sympathetic strike which would bring out 70,000 trades unionists tomorrow, unless Mayor Mitchell succeeded in bringing the officials of the streetcar companies, as well as the union leaders to terms before that time.
Trolley Car's Run Wild
The feeling between the strikers and the strike-breakers was illustrated yesterday when, one after another, five trolley cars crashed with the rear of cars ahead of them on a steep incline in the Bronx. Ten passengers were hurt, some seriously, and the strike-breakers who were manning the cars declared that they could not control the trolleys as the tracks of the incline had been oiled so that the brakes would not hold the wheels.
The companies have been manning the cars with strike-breakers as speedily as possible and have been sending out all the cars for which police protection has been provided. As a consequence the pressure on the traveling public has been somewhat eased, and a feeling of optimism had been spreading throughout the city until the decision of the mass meeting last night was announced.
Stocks Take Downward Shot
The business element, in particular felt that the strike could not continue, and that one side or the other would yield soon. The feeling was reflected in the stock market yesterday.
The stock market showed an extraordinary rise today. Early trading showed transactions of half a million shares, with gains from one to three points in industrials, equipments, motors and oils, while the shares in almost every other description of stock gave almost as notable gains. Bethlehem scored a twenty point advance with 575.

TURKEY RECEDES REGARDING SYRIA

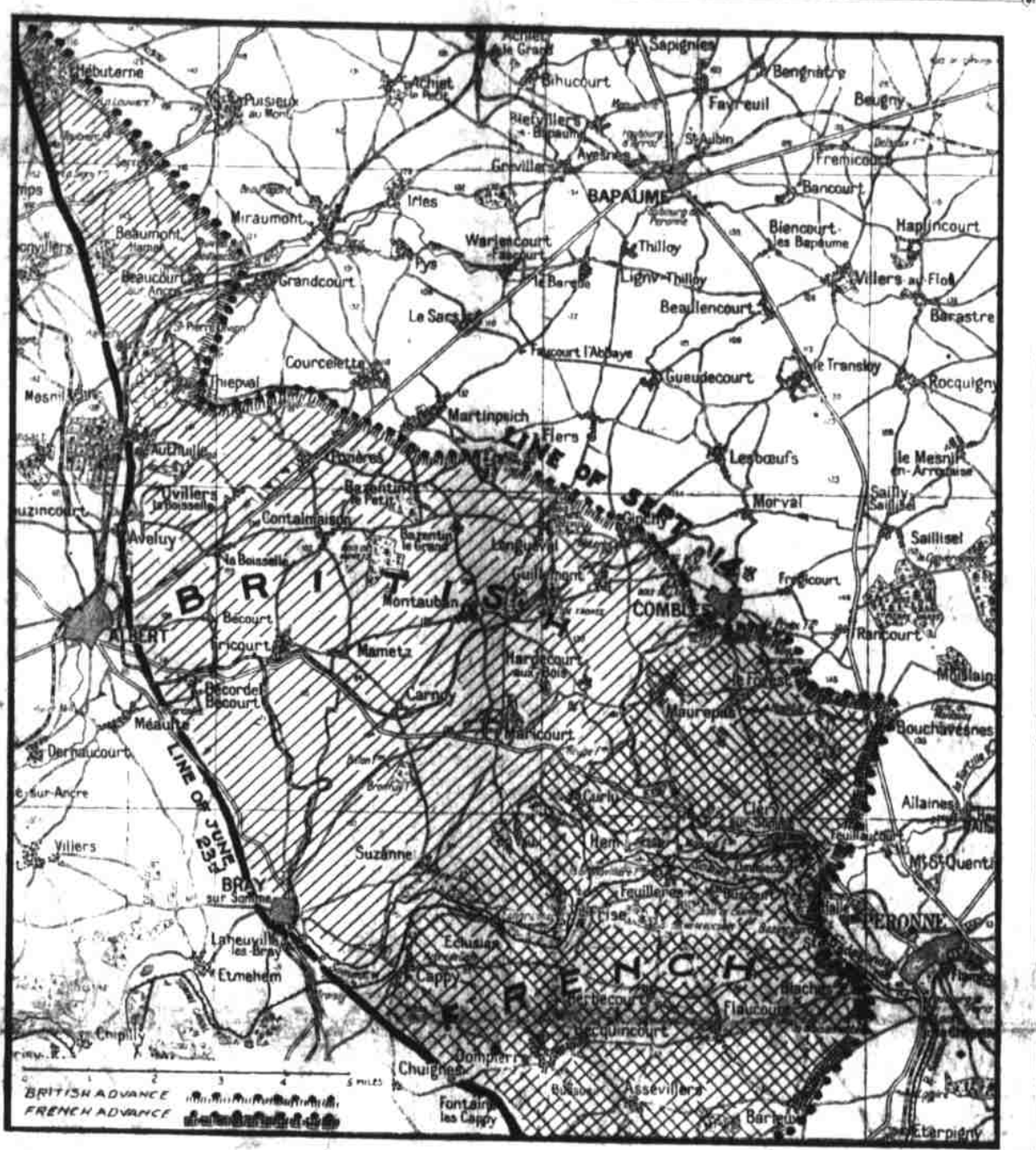
Sublime Porte Will Allow United States To Send Food To Armenians

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
WASHINGTON, September 15.—After months of effort on the part of the United States, Turkey has receded her declaration against allowing the importation of food for the starving Armenians in Syria and has announced that she will permit supplies to be shipped in for the use of the suffering thousands.
Information to this effect reached the officials of the state department yesterday afternoon and was immediately made public. The concessions do not include the people in Armenia proper, where the Russians are now fighting, and the United States government will continue its negotiations until it obtains similar concessions for that part of the Sultan's domains.
The Turkish plan is to send the supplies sent from this country through Beirut, and it is believed that the Allies will agree to this as they are most anxious to get such provisions through to the starving people of the country.
Former Ambassador Morgenthau began the negotiations which have been carried through.

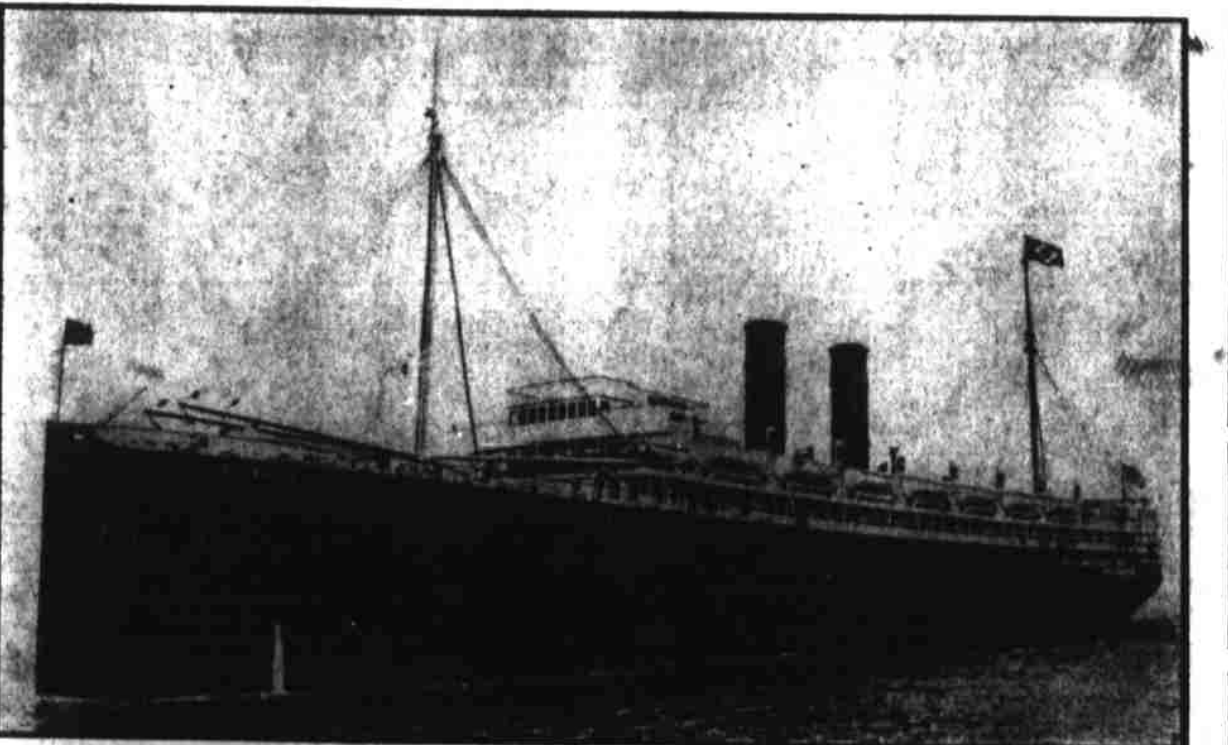
BRITISH SEIZE DANISH MAIL IN NEUTRAL SHIP

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
BERLIN, September 15.—The British naval authorities have seized Danish mail on board the Norwegian steamer Kristiania Fjord, bound from New York for Bergen, according to a despatch to the Overseas News Agency.
CHOLERA SPREADS RAPIDLY
(Special Cablegram to Hawaii Bureau.)
TOKYO, September 14.—Cholera in the prefecture of Okayama is increasing every day. Government authorities have been compelled to close all public schools.

THE Allies' Gains On the West—The accompanying map shows the progress made by the French and British in their Somme offensive since June 23, during the course of which approximately 40,000 German prisoners have been taken. Yesterday's developments brought the French salient south of Comblès north to a point east of that important center, with the British less than a mile west of the city, making its early evacuation by the Germans a military necessity. On the right hand center of the map is shown the French position straddling the Bethune-Peronne highway, to regain which the Germans unsuccessfully counter-attacked yesterday.



MAGNIFICENT Coastwise Liner Congress, Which Was Abandoned By Passengers and Crew Off Coos Bay, Oregon, and Left To Drift A Raging Furnace When Fire Doomed Craft



PREMIER OF GREECE INSISTS ON QUITTING

Zaimis Will Not Remain In Office Despite Friends

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
ATHENS, September 14.—Efforts to persuade Alexander Zaimis, the Greek premier and statesman, to remain in office have proved fruitless, emphasizing the factional strife and discord in King Constantine's country.
Zaimis' pride was wounded at the appearance of the Allied fleet at Piræus at the moment that negotiations were begun by the Allies for the entry of Greece into the war, the show of force by the Entente Powers offending the Greek statesman.
The discord of the country in the face of the national crisis further operated to discourage the entire cabinet.

CARRANZA WANTS REVISION OF LAWS

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
NEW LONDON, Connecticut, September 15.—Mexican members of the joint international peace commission, meeting here to settle the disputed points between the United States and Mexico, yesterday explained to the commission the attitude of the Carranza government toward important governmental questions.
They declared that Carranza wishes to institute sweeping reforms in Mexico, particularly in court procedure and in the code of laws under which Mexico is governed. It is proposed to simplify legal procedure, eliminate corruption and bribery and to reform the national code.
The commission also considered the question of establishing an international border police, or neutral constabulary to patrol the Mexican frontier in order to check raids of outlaws and keep order.

CARRANZA'S FORCES FEAR VILLA ATTACK

Funston Reports Reinforcements Sent To City of Chihuahua

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
SAN ANTONIO, September 14.—General Funston, commanding the border troops, said today that General Bell, at El Paso, has reports that the Carranzista troops fear an attack by General Villa and his men at the City of Chihuahua.
It is reported that troops of the de facto government are being rushed from the south to reinforce the Carranza garrison at the City of Chihuahua.
General Pershing's latest despatches place Villa's probable position at near Guerrero, eighty miles west of the City of Chihuahua.

PASSENGERS AND CREW ARE SAVED AFTER SHIP HAS RACE WITH FLAMES

Wireless Distress Signal Brings Rescue Craft To Doomed Vessel, Which Is Adandoned Off Coos Bay and Left To Drift When Steel Liner Becomes Veritable Roaring Furnace

MASTER QUELLS A PANIC

(Associated Press by Federal Wireless.)
SAN FRANCISCO, September 15.—The Congress, finest of the Pacific Coast Steamship Company's three coastwise steamers, is a charred derelict, drifting under a pall of smoke towards Coos Bay, abandoned by her passengers and crew. The passengers, 253 of them, and the crew, 175 men, landed at North Bend, Oregon, last night, safe but shocked by the experience through which they had passed. The ship is a total loss.
The Congress, which was four years old, having been built by the New York Shipbuilding Company of Camden, New Jersey, on the Delaware, in 1912, and brought round the Horn to assist her sister ships, the President and the Governor, in the coastwise trade of the company that owns the ships, was on her way from San Francisco to Seattle yesterday afternoon when fire broke out in one of the steerage cabins in the second hold.

FLAMES SPREAD OVER BIG SHIP

It was shortly after three o'clock when the first hint of the flames was observed, and Captain Cousins, the commander, notified. At first it was thought that the fire was of small importance and could be extinguished without trouble. But the flames grew in strength and volume and faster than the fire-fighters of the crew and the volunteers from among the passengers could fight it, and in a short time it was seen that the ship was doomed.

As soon as this became apparent Captain Cousins turned the head of his vessel in the direction of Coos Bay, then about thirty miles to the east, and ordered full speed from his engineer. The steamer raced along over a sea that fortunately was smooth, and with but a light head wind to fan the flames, which by this time were beginning to force their way toward the stern of the doomed craft.

MAIN WIRELESS PLANT BREAKS DOWN

As soon as the fire was discovered it was reported to shore by wireless, but when the vessel's head was turned toward Coos Bay and an effort was made to send out an appeal for assistance, it was found that the main wireless plant had broken down. Whether the heat had fused some of the wires, or the break came from some other cause, is not known, but the wireless operator immediately set to work to install the auxiliary plant.

It took some time to get this in working order and sent out the s. o. s. signal.

The call brought help. The steam dredger Michie and the power schooner Tillamook, both went to the assistance of the Congress, but not until she had neared the Coast so as to be in soundings.

RACE WITH FLAMES MADE SHOREWARD

Meantime the race with the flames went on, while the wireless sent frantic calls for help broadcast over the sea. The decks became unbearably hot as the fire crept fore and aft from its starting place, and though all the hatches had been battened down and all doors and ports closed as tightly as possible, so as to smother the flames, they still gained with remarkable rapidity.

When the Coast line of Oregon appeared above the sea and it was seen that the vessel surely would make land, if not port, before the flames burst their bonds, the passengers, who had preserved excellent control of themselves, broke out into a cheer.

Shortly afterward the Tillamook hove in sight and came down to stand by and render what assistance her commander could give. Shortly the Michie came in sight and ranged alongside the Tillamook, ready to lend a hand.

MAD RUSH FOR BOATS STOPPED BY OFFICERS

The Congress by this time had drawn near to the shore; the heat from the flames was becoming more than the people on board could stand, and at last Captain Cousins stopped the ship, dropped anchor and gave command to lower away the boats. As the boats dropped over the side into the calm water there was a mad rush of the passengers to enter them and escape from the scorching decks.

This was promptly checked by the officers of the ship and the disembarkation of the passengers in the steamer was carried forward in an orderly manner, the women and children going first. The boats made for the dredge Michie which took on board all of the passengers and crew.

As soon as all persons were safe the light luggage belonging to the passengers was put in the boats and taken to the dredge. This work went on until the decks began warping under the heat and turning red hot in places where the flames raged fiercest.

TWO MEMBERS OF CREW OVERCOME

So long had some of the crew lingered over this work that two of them were caught by the burst of smoke that came when one of the hatches blew off, and were overcome. They were lifted over the side and carried to the Michie. One of them suffered severely and was taken to the hospital, as soon as the dredge reached dock, where he was reported still unconscious late last night.

Chief Stewart Damsden gave a vivid account of the fire and the race for safety on his arrival at North Bend.

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